

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-54 (canceled)

55. (previously presented) A method comprising:

- a) providing a device for maintaining an area in an isolated environment, said device comprising an enclosure for separating said area from an atmosphere ambient to said device, a means for evacuating said isolated environment, a means for refilling said isolated environment, and at least one access port, wherein said area is chosen from a surgical field and an injured area; and
- b) positioning the device over said area and releasably attaching said device to a patient's skin surrounding said area.

56. (previously presented) The method of Claim 55, wherein said injured area is selected from the group consisting of burns, lesions, and broken bones.

57. (previously presented) The method of Claim 55, wherein said at least one access port is suitable for admission of at least one surgical means selected from the group consisting of surgical instruments, robotics, sensors, and human hands.

58. (previously presented) The method of Claim 55, further comprising step c) evacuating any gas within said isolated environment by using said means for evacuating.

59 (previously presented) The method of Claim 58, further comprising step d) introducing sterile gas into said isolated environment by using said means for refilling.

60. (previously presented) The method of Claim 59, wherein said means for refilling produces an environment with reduced oxygen tension.

61. (previously presented) The method of Claim 59, wherein said means for refilling produces an environment with increased oxygen tension.

62. (previously presented) The method of Claim 59, wherein said sterile gas is chosen from nitrogen, argon and a mixture thereof.

63. (previously presented) The method of Claim 55, wherein said isolated environment is essentially pathogen-free.

64. (previously presented) A method comprising:

- a) providing a device for maintaining an area in an isolated environment, said device comprising an enclosure for separating said area from an atmosphere ambient to said device, a means for filling said isolated environment, and at least one access port, wherein said area is chosen from a surgical field and an injured area; and
- b) positioning the device over said area and releasably attaching said device to a patient's skin surrounding said area.

65. (previously presented) The method of Claim 64, wherein said means for filling produces an environment with reduced oxygen tension.

66. (previously presented) The method of Claim 64, wherein said means for filling produces an environment with an increased oxygen tension.

67. (previously presented) A method comprising:

- a) providing a device for maintaining transplant material in an isolated environment, said device comprising an enclosure for separating said transplant material from an atmosphere ambient to said device, a means for evacuating said isolated environment, and a means for refilling said isolated environment, wherein the oxygen tension of said isolated environment is controllable; and
- b) placing said transplant material in said device.

68. (previously presented) The method of Claim 67, wherein said means for evacuating comprises means for oxygen release and retention of a heavy gas within said isolated environment.

69. (previously presented) The method of Claim 67, wherein said means for evacuating produces an environment with reduced oxygen tension.

70. (previously presented) The method of Claim 67, wherein said means for refilling produces an environment with reduced oxygen tension.

71. (previously presented) The method of Claim 67, wherein said means for refilling produces an environment with an increased oxygen tension.

72. (previously presented) The method of Claim 67, wherein said isolated environment is essentially pathogen-free.

73. (previously presented) The method of Claim 67, wherein said transplant material is selected from the group consisting of organs, tissues, cells, and artificial materials.

74. (previously presented) The device of Claim 67, wherein said device is suitable for transporting said transplant material.